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Council on Aging Minutes 12/13/2001

ARLINGTON COUNCIL ON AGING

Richard Murray, Chair
Mary Dodge, Vice-Chair
Shirley Chapski, Secretary

Regular Meeting of the Council on Aging
December 13, 2001

MINUTES

Members Present: Mary Dodge, Mildred Hurd, Hannah Simon, Harry McCabe, Dottie Nicholas and Shirley Chapski

Members Absent: Richard Murray, Phil Mercandetti, and Robert Bowes

Others Present: John Jope, COA Executive Director, Lynne McCluskey, COA Transportation, Paul Matos, Stan Nowak, Diane Meadow and Jean Hopkins.

Quorum Identification/Call to Order: Mary Dodge, Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. A quorum of 6 was present.

Minutes of the November 15, 2001 Meeting: Harry moved to receive the minutes of the November 15, 2001 meeting, Mildred seconded. Mildred requested that the minutes be amended as follows: Page 2: Paragraph 10, insert COA Representative to before Minuteman Senior Services, and insert Mildred before the word discussed and in the next paragraph COA Representative to ASA, add at the end of the paragraph, As COA representative to Minuteman Senior Services she presented the GLBT Report.

It was MSV to accept the minutes as amended.

Public Forum: Paul Matos and Stan Nowak of Silver Lake Communications spoke about a voice-activated telephone communications service for seniors who are living in their own homes. Messrs. Matos and Nowak would like to convene some focus groups with the COA to get feedback on their product. Those who participate would have to sign confidentiality agreements. Harry said our policy is that we can't act on it right away and cannot endorse them, nor can they say we have endorsed them, but if they understand those limitations, we could help them. Hannah moved that this item be put on the agenda for the January meeting, Dottie seconded. Mr. Matos and Mr. Nowak departed the meeting.

REPORTS

ASA Representative to the COA: Gloria von Hyeburg was not present.

Executive Directors Report:

° John Jope said he has resigned as Chair (and member) of the MCOA Education and Membership Committee as a replacement has been found. The MCOA's statewide Membership Meeting is scheduled for 2/15/02 and he would encourage the board members to attend.

° The flu clinics held at the Senior Ctr. and Town Hall were very successful and John commended the student nurses, who use the COA as a field site, for their help and said that in addition to the on-site clinics, Terri Susi had spent 2 days on the road giving flu shots to homebound elders. Mary praised the volunteers for their help.

° Governors conference on Aging will be held at the Holiday Inn at Boxborough on Thursday May 23.

° Delivery of Thanksgiving dinners (84) prepared at Symmes cafeteria to shut-in seniors. COA volunteers and some from the Arlington Retired Mens Club (who funded this event) did a great job.

° Sanborn Foundation reviewing our request for additional funding.

° Dial-a-Ride program: Cost will increase 25¢ per ride (to be paid by the client) as of January 1st. The total increase not firm yet as the bids have not come in but expect an increase of 50¢ - \$1 per ride. We would absorb the bulk of the increase.

° The Annual Report will be due mid-January. Also, John was notified by Alan McClennen that the federal government did an on-site visit for CDBG and everyone who receives these grants will have to make quarterly reports on each block grant.

Finance Committee:

Hannah gave an informal report; they did not have a quorum at the last Finance Cte. meeting at which she and Bob Bowes were present. The biggest issue is the Lifeline Subsidy Fund which is a nonreplenishing fund and they talked of ways to acquire more funding. Further they are hoping to get another \$20K for the Sanborn fund. John added that he has not received a sheet on the Sevoyan Fund but the members present said we could wait until the Jan. meeting.

Sevoyan Bequest Committee:

Harry reported on the December 11 meeting of the Sevoyan Bequest Committee at which a quorum was not present. He said no votes and no binding decisions were made. At that meeting he distributed documents relating to the Sevoyan Bequest to the newer members of the committee and it was agreed to meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Harry next reported that a vigorous discussion had been held on the funds available for disbursement after all conditions were met and further discussion took place concerning a dental reimbursement program (initially proposed by John Jope 6/22/00) for the Town's elderly. It was agreed that the committee would like to hear from the COA staff on their progress with the town's dentists and the Board of Health and how they would envision the program working, specifically what income guidelines would they recommend. John will review the proposal with the staff and will submit his findings to the committee and he will also contact Marie Walsh of the Board of Health. The next meeting of the Sevoyan Bequest Committee is Jan 8.

Transportation Study Group:

Dottie reported that the proposals went out they have had two responses (SCM and Arlex). Those involved have reviewed and ranked them (however, without the pricing part of the proposal) and have returned it to the Town Purchasing Department. Issues of liability insurance and fare grouping were also discussed.

Harry moved that we return to the order of the day.

Long-Range Planning Committee: Hannah reported that a meeting had been held on December 4 and had a quorum. The participants discussed setting strategic goals for long range planning but felt before that could happen we should set goals for a year. To that end, John was asked to give dollar amounts for

programs and he has very kindly offered to do a presentation to give a basic understanding of the programs with service and dollar figures. The next meeting is January 8 at 1:00 pm.

Assisted Living/Housing Options Task Force: Harry commented that the task force had met recently but he was not notified, nor was Hannah. John will follow up on this with Alex Moschella.

COA Representative to Minuteman Senior Services: Mildred said she has the Minuteman Home Care Nutrition Report will give it to John for copying. It will be distributed at the next meeting.

COA Representative to ASA: Mildred did not attend the December board meeting, but reminded the members that the ASA Christmas Party will be held on Dec. 15. Discussion followed on the number of people the function room can hold in keeping with the fire laws. John will check these restrictions again with the Fire Department.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- ° Senior Center sign: John said he talked with Joe at the DPW Paint Shop and the sign will be finished shortly and hopefully installed before the next COA meeting.
- ° RUOK Program: John met with Lt. John Serson, Community Services, who is interested in the program, and they will both pursue it. It is police-run program and the software is \$3500.
- ° Senior Center TV: John has had two local contractors in to give him estimates of the cost of building a suitable cabinet to house the TV and is waiting for the estimates. The \$2500 check from the Cambridge Savings Bank has been received.

NEW BUSINESS

- ° John talked about a fax he received from Linda Roberts of the Nantucket COA wherein she stated that Nantucket has a hiring freeze and that she is working alone and was seeking advice on paid and volunteer positions. John said we are fortunate at this point in time to have the funding to do what we do.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ° Letter from David Stevens, MCOA
- ° Letter from Michael Bellotti, Sheriff
- ° Minutes received from Minuteman Sr. Svcs.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was voted to adjourn.

Adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Shirley Chapski,
Council Secretary

Date of next Meeting, January 24, 2002 at 7:30 p.m.